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February 23, 2010

Mrs. Susan M. Hudson, Clerk
Chittenden Bank Building
Vermont Public Service Board
112 State Street - Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Docket 7466 - Petition of the Department of Public Service for an Investigation into modification of the structure of Vermont's Energy Efficiency Utility

Dear Mrs. Hudson:

The Department of Public Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Proposal for Decision issued on February 17, 2010 by the Board's Hearing Officer Ann Bishop, in Docket 7466. The process and criteria set forth in the Proposal for Decision for the Initial Overall Performance Assessment are consistent with the Department's suggestions and would, we believe, be an appropriate manner in which to evaluate the incumbent EEU's to determine if they should be given Orders of Appointment under the Board's newly approved EEU structure.

While the Department has been diligent in issuing a Request for Proposals for the Benchmarking Study that will inform the initial OPA process, the review of the proposals we received took longer than anticipated and we have only recently selected the consultant who will perform this work. As a consequence, and in order to give the consultant enough time to conduct the study, the Department proposes a series of adjustments to what all parties had agreed was an ambitious schedule.

The table below shows the tasks and dates from the Board's initial Proposal for Decision and compares them to the dates suggested by the Department, which are approximately two to three weeks later. The ultimate result is that the target date for the issuance of the Proposal for Decision at the conclusion of the Initial OPA process moves from July 9, 2010 to July 22, 2010. Given the importance of this process, and the need to have the Benchmarking Study completed to inform the process, the Department believes that this extension of the schedule is warranted and in the best interests of all parties, as well as the Vermont rate paying public.




Task	PSB proposal	DPS proposal
Electric Distribution utilities to provide notice to customers in bills, if their billing systems can accommodate such notice, of the initial OPA Process and the opportunity for customers to file comments on the EEU's performance	April Bills	May Bills
All parties to provide draft information they believe the Board should consider in the Initial OPAs; DPS will provide draft Benchmarking study and so-called "state-sanctioned information"	April 8, 2010	April 29, 2020
Workshop, open to the public, to address requests for clarification regarding draft information, questions regarding why information is relevant to evaluation criteria, and related issues	April 20, 2010	May 11, 2010
All parties to submit final information they believe the Board should consider in the Initial OPAs	May 7, 2010	May 25, 2010
Tentative date for workshop, if workshop is necessary	May 20, 2010	June 7, 2010
Requested date for submission of public comments (to be included in notice to customers); parties to file recommendations and proposed findings	June 2, 2010	June 17, 2010
Parties to file responses to written recommendations and proposed findings	June 16, 2010	July 1, 2010
Target date for issuance of Proposal for Decision	July 9, 2010	July 22, 2010

This schedule change proposal has been shared with the parties to this docket and Central Vermont Public Service, Burlington Electric Department and Green Mountain Power have no objection to the adjusted schedule. Counsel for the Group of Municipal Electric Utilities (GMEU) has not had an opportunity to review the specific adjustments proposed herein, but did indicate support in principle for a short extension of the schedule.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


 Jeanne Elias
 Special Counsel

cc: Attached Service List